

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Conexiones is in its 8th year and I have seen it impact students each year: they meet their best friends, join a student organization, find new support systems in the faculty, staff and LCC, and some have even secured jobs or assistantships at the LCC.

You are here today to connect and to learn. At your age, I was often too timid to talk to the person next to me, to put myself out there for fear of looking, well, dumb. But as my mom always said, and it's true, "nadie te esta viendo". In other words, so many others here may also be too shy to put themselves out there and worried about what you're thinking. We all have our stuff--some of us have it more figured out than others. So, today, I ask those more quiet or more scared ones to take a chance on your community, put yourself out there. To the more seasoned students, be the person that makes everyone feel comfortable, like they've known you forever. Together, let's make sure everyone feels included.

Soak up the knowledge that today's facilitator's will impart on you. Take notes, raise your hand--take a chance on yourself and trust that you will be fine, maybe even great.

Thanks to everyone who help bring Conexiones to fruition: Volunteer Drivers, Facilitators, Beck Ag Staff and the LCC staff. I deeply appreciate your commitment to student success.

Abrazos,

Carina Olaru
Director, First-Gen College Student,
Purdue PhD Student,
DePaul Alumna





### LATINO CULTURAL CENTER STAFF



Carina Olaru

Director



**Ebelin Gomez**Assistant Director



**Guillermo Morgado Rodriguez**Sr. Administrative Assistant



Laura Marcela Quintero Sarmiento Graduate Assistant



Karen Alvarez Julian Graduate Assistant

### LATINO CULTURAL CENTER STAFF



**Kevin Hernandez-Benitez** *Undergraduate Student Employee* 



Michelle Guadarrama Undergraduate Student Employee



Julianne Silva Undergraduate Student Employee



Alyssa Hiller Undergraduate Student Employee

### REGISTERED STUDENT ORGRANIZATION FAIR



Association of Latino

Professionals for America (ALPFA)



**Baile Folklorico** 



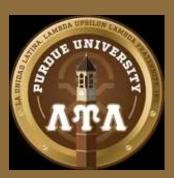
Delta Phi Mu Sorority, Inc.



Delta Pi Rho Fraternity Inc.



**Latinx Student Union** 



La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc.



**MAES (Latinos in Engineering)** 



Mexican Mexican

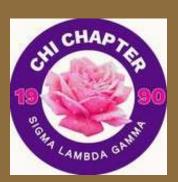
American Association



Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)



Sigma Lambda Beta
International Fraternity Inc.



Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.

#### AGENDA

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Meet at the LCC for

transportation to Beck Ag

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast and Student

Organization Resource Fair

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM Welcome

11:20 AM - 12:10 PM Morning Workshop Sessions

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM - 1:30 PM Break & Networking

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM Afternoon Workshop Sessions

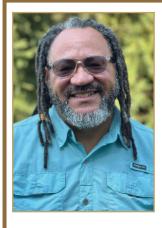
2:30 PM Wrap-Up and Group Picture

2:45 PM Transportation to LCC



**Latino Cultural Center** 

## SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS



Servant Leadership ROOM 111A

Facilitator: Jorge Perez de Jesus

Clinical Assistant Professor, Special Education, Applied Behavior Analysis, Educational Studies, Purdue University

Servant Leadership is a style of leadership that is well suited for university clubs and organizations. In addition participants will view other leadership styles to compare and draw from as they embark on their own leadership journey.



## Lo uso o no lo uso: Thinking and Tinkering with AI ROOM 111B

Facilitator: Juan Carlos Montoya

Senior Diversity Recruiter, Human Resources, Purdue University

In times of generative artificial intelligence (GenAl), students face the dilemma of whether to use these tools in their course work. They are receiving mixed messages warning about academic integrity violations and skill loss, while hearing about the demand for GenAl-literate professionals. For this reason, this workshop aims to equip students to make informed, ethical, and productive decisions about GenAl use. During the workshop, students will explore their beliefs and experiences with GenAl, review institutional Al policies, and engage in practical exercises for using GenAl to support critical thinking and authorship. To achieve this goal students will engage in (1) probing questions about their experiences and apprehensions, (2) a "green-yellow-red zone" case study game to break down policy, and (3) hands-on writing activities that model ethical GenAl integration. In brief, students will better understand GenAl's risks and possibilities, know where to seek guidance, and gain strategies to support their writing and language.



## The Currency of Influence: Building Leadership and Financial Intelligence ROOM 117

Facilitators: Umberto DeVany & Leo Ramirez

Associate Director, Alumni Engagement for Career Services, Krannert Professional Development Center, Purdue University

This presentation will focus on key leadership and financial lessons, centered around the theme of influence, that are often learned after college but would have been invaluable during that time. It will also highlight strategies for accelerating leadership and financial growth as a young professional entering the corporate world. The session will be co-presented with Leo Ramirez, who brings experience from previous collaborations, holds a graduate degree, and has worked in government roles at both the state and federal levels.



## Leverage LinkedIn for Career Success ROOM 141

Facilitator: Amruta Inamdar Senior Career Services Consultant

It's free, it's versatile, and it's working for you 24/7. Attend this workshop to learn how you can make the most of LinkedIn to market yourself effectively, to learn about potential employment opportunities, and to network with people in your field. If possible, please bring your laptop with you so you can work on your profile.

### SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS



Love, Choices, and Sacrifice: 3 Keys to Thriving in Life and Your Education ROOM 117

Facilitator: Dr. Naz Zerka Therapist, Different Spectrums

Mental health is often misunderstood or stigmatized in our culture, but it is the foundation of how we love, how we make choices, and what we are willing to sacrifice for our future. In this session, we will open up an honest conversation about mental health and how it is designated within ourselves, our families, and our culture. Through powerful stories and real examples, we will explore how love choices and sacrifice are key to thriving both in life and here at the university. The presentation will conclude with a guided meditation that challenges you to reflect deeply, leaving you feeling inspired, grounded, and ready to succeed.



## Atrévete to Make the Most of Purdue ROOM 111B

Facilitators: Mexican and Mexican American Student Association
Undergraduate Students in Registered Student Organization

Starting college can feel intimidating—whether you're a first-year, first-gen, student of color at a PWI, or even a senior. This workshop, led by MMAA undergraduates, will share real experiences and strategies to help you make the most of Purdue and the LCC. We'll cover asking for help, being intentional, connecting with professors and staff, building professionalism, and finding community. You'll also learn about opportunities in extracurriculars, study abroad, research, and internships, while creating your own college bucket list. Together, we'll explore what it means to be Atrevid@—brave, excited, and open to



## Crafting Effective Job Documents: Résumés, CVs, and Cover Letters ROOM 141

Facilitator: Jacqueline Borchert
Professional Writing Specialist, Purdue OWL, Purdue University

Are you preparing to apply for internships, jobs, or graduate programs? This workshop, led by a consultant from the Purdue Writing Lab, will guide you through the essentials of crafting clear, professional, and tailored job application materials. You'll learn the differences between résumés and CVs, how to organize your experience effectively, and strategies for writing compelling cover letters that highlight your strengths and fit the position. Whether you're just starting to build your documents or looking to refine existing ones, this interactive session will offer tips, resources, and examples to help you present yourself with confidence. Bring your questions—or a draft if you have one!—and leave with tools to stand out in the job market.



Tipping Points: Turning Small Steps into Big Change ROOM 111A

Facilitator: Josh Delgado

Student Success Coach, Purdue Promise, Purdue University

We have all experienced failure at least once throughout our everyday lives. Whether it be personal or academic, failure is a state that is accompanied by many negative thoughts and emotions. However, is it possible to learn, grow and even appreciate failure? Throughout this presentation of short discussions, we will go over Growth Mindsets within higher education and how we can learn, grow, and appreciate the act of failure. In order to better understand and convert even our worst losses into bigger victories!

# WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

Please use the following QR code or tinyurl to provide feedback to workshop facilitators.



tinyurl.com/conexioneswsfb



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